

You Just Bought a Tagawa Rose Bush... Now What?

A guide to growing beautiful roses in Colorado that will thrive for years to come



At a Glance

Roses bought from greenhouses need to be *acclimated* to the outdoor elements slowly over 6-8 days before being planted.

Sun: 5 - 6 hours daily; protect from high winds.

Water: 4-6" per week, check soil for moisture before watering; aim water at soil level, avoiding leaves.

Soil: Amend with compost, 1/3 compost to 2/3 native soil.

Fertilizer: Do not fertilize roses for the first year after planting. Afterward, fertilize once per month.

Pruning: Restrict to growing season only, and use our guide on Page 3 for pruning according to the shape of your rose bush.

Tips for Success

- Roses grown in greenhouses should be "hardened off" (acclimated to the outdoors for 6-8 days) before planting to prevent major sunburn.
- After acclimation, prune roses back (including all flowers and buds) to 1/2 of its height.
- Roses need at least 5-6 hours of sunlight to perform best without being exposed to high winds.
- Amend soil with compost when planting new roses. Add one third (volume) of compost to two thirds of soil from your landscape. On sandy soil, use a one to one ratio of compost to soil.
- If planting a grafted (budded) rose in Colorado, the graft should be planted 2-3" below the soil level for protection from temperature fluctuations.
- For root adaptation purposes, do not fertilize newly-planted roses in their first year. For year two and beyond, beginning in April, fertilize with a quality rose food once a month. Stop feeding after August 15th to promote acclimation for the coming colder weather.
- Water to a depth of 4-6". Allow newer growth to go slightly limp before another deep watering. Apply 3-4" of mulch to keep the roses from drying out too quickly.
- Pruning during the growing season will depend on the type of rose. A general rule is to look for 5 leaflets facing outward as an indicator of where to cut. Remember to sanitize shears between different plants and not to prune new growth. Make angled cuts with the higher end pointed toward the 5 leaflets/extra stem, as that will help support a new branch.
- If aphids appear, hose off with a strong stream of water. Neem oil is a good nontoxic aphid fighter because it smothers the aphid.
- Remember to winter water your roses twice a month beginning in November. Continue through March. Gradually increase as weather, exposure, and drainage dictate.

Acclimate Your New Rose Bush

These roses grew up in our climate controlled greenhouse, and need to get used to the outside elements before planting. This can be achieved by bringing the plant outdoors during the day over a period of 6 to 8 days. Keep

in a semi-shaded of your yard away from direct sunlight for the first 3 to 4 days. Then, move to a sunnier area for 3 to 4 more days before planting. If freezing temperatures are expected, move your rose into the garage or inside your home until danger has passed.

Remember to prune 1/2 the rose's height after planting!

Tips

- Acclimate (put outside during daylight hours) your new rose in its original pot during morning sun and evening shade for 6 to 8 days after purchase.
- Plant deeply, so that the graft (bud union) is 3" below the soil line.
- Prune back by about half its height and water deeply.
- Do not fertilize your newly-planted roses until next year.
- Always remember to winter water!

Watering Your Roses

Rose bushes usually require about 3" of water per week. This is a general measurement, and it can be difficult to determine if your rosebushes are getting too much or too little moisture.

Everyone has different soil conditions: clay, sand, or somewhere in-between. The hard part is determining how well moisture is being absorbed in your particular landscape and adjusting accordingly.

How can you tell if the roots have been watered well?

A simple test you can perform is to take a hand trowel and insert it in the ground near the rose, being careful not to cause injury to the roots. Once it is pushed into the soil, move it forward and back, and then remove. There will be a wedge-shaped opening in the soil. Put your hand into the opening, and if the soil feels dry to the touch (down 1-2" deep) and is lighter in color than usual, water deeply (4-6"). If it feels cool and moist, hold off for a day or two and check again.

After doing this a few times, make note of how many days go by before you need to water again. Subtract 1 day from your total and that will give you a general idea on how often watering in your area is needed. This technique can also work for newly-planted trees and shrubs.

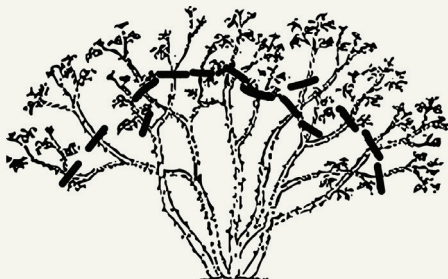
A common instinct is to water when the temperature is hot, but keep in mind that plants can wilt if they are kept too damp too often in the heat.

Don't water because of the heat, water because soil is dry.

Rose Care under Water Restrictions

- Amend your planting area with compost to improve water absorption.
- Roses require 6 hours of sun to flower. If possible, plant in a partly-shaded area of your landscape to slow the drying rate of soil.
- Plant roses together, especially hybrid tea types.
- Wind soaker hoses among rose beds and bury with 4" of mulch. Place mulch 6" away from the trunk of the rose bush.
- If using a deep root feeder to water, insert 6" away from the main trunk of the rose bush to a depth of 2-3". For each insertion, water 1 minute. Apply 2-3 insertions for roses 3-5'.
- Do not fertilize newly-planted roses for the first season to allow for adaptation to its new area.

Pruning Your Roses by Shape



Spreading Shapes

Remove about a third of the length of each stem, cutting to just above an outward-facing bud. The aim is to maintain the natural width and spreading shape of the plant.

Arching Shapes

For roses that bloom once a year, the time to prune is after flowering in the style shown. For rose hips, do not prune. For climbing roses, prune out the spent bloom clusters in this way. Climbing roses are not pruned back like other roses. Once your climbing rose is 4 years old, prune out 2 to 3 of the oldest canes back to the base in mid-spring and every other year afterward to rejuvenate.



Bushy Shapes

Roses defined as shrubs, old garden, groundcover and miniatures like to be pruned back by 1/3 of their height in mid-spring. Prune right above an outward-facing bud and any weak looking canes.

Bedding Roses

Starting in mid-spring, this type of pruning is ideal for hybrid teas, grandifloras, and English roses. Pruned canes should be 8-12" tall. Cut right above outward facing buds.



Upright Shapes

Roses with this growth habit, like hedge roses, should be pruned by 1/2 of their height to promote bushiness. If the goal is height, prune back by 1/4 to 1/3 yearly.